

Down Memory Lane

Opinion An editor's random thoughts...

This, That and T'other

A Page from the Diary of a Country Editor
Thursday, Feb. 16, 1983

So I am stumped under the level stare of gran'ther's eyes, ashamed at my lack of fortitude, and pick up a book that has long lain on my candle stand and immediately know that I have discovered one of the most delightful writings I have enjoyed for many years. And all the morning, my plan for work now gone A-Flah, I read in Samuel Butler's "Way of Zenith," "... charming is his style, so replete with common sense and a perspicacity years in advance of his time, thus I spend a better morning with it and a portion of the afternoon. And I wonder what gran'ther would have replied to a conclusion my author quoted below. Doubtless, having never possessed much money, he would have demolished it with scorn. Yet it is moderate comfort, as my author quoted below, unfortunate, who, in these recent months, have condescended that rather than bear these ills we have it is preferable to fly to others that we know not of. I wonder what you will think of it.

"A man can stand being told that he must submit to a severe surgical operation, or that he will be lame or blind for the rest of his life, dreadful as such tidings must be, we do not find that they unnerve the greater number of mankind, most men, indeed, go coolly enough through it, and the better men are they, the more complete, as a general rule, is their resignation. Suicide is a common consequence of money losses; it is rarely sought as a means of escape from bodily suffering. If we find that we have a competence at our backs, so that we can die matter and quietly in our beds, with no need to worry about expense, we live our lives out to the dregs, no matter how excruciating our torments. Joy probably fell the loss of his flock and herds more than that of his wife and family, for he still enjoy his flocks and herds without his family, but not his family nor for long — if he had lost all his money. Less of money indeed is not only the worst pain in itself, but it is the parent of all others. Let a man have been brought up to his competence, and have no specialty; then let his money be suddenly taken from him, and how long is his health likely to survive the change in all his little ways which loss of money will entail? How long again is the esteem and sympathy of friends likely to survive ruin? People may have been sorry for us, but their attitude towards us hitherto has been based upon the fact that we were situated thus or thus in money matters; when this breaks down there must be a restatement of the social problem so far as we are concerned, we have been obtaining esteem under false pretenses. Granted, then, that the three most serious losses which a man can suffer are those affecting money, health and reputation. Loss of money is far the worst, then comes ill health, and then loss of reputation; loss of reputation is a bad third, for if a man keeps health and money unimpaired, it will be unnecessary to fear that his loss of reputation will breach of parvenu conventions only, and not to violations of those older, better established canons whose authority is unquestionable. In this case a man may grow a new reputation as easily as a lobster grows a new claw, or, if he have health and money, may thrive in great peace of mind without any reputation at all. The only chance for a man who has lost his money is that he shall still be young enough to stand uprooting and transplanting without more than temporary derangement."

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"Tonight my strange discontent returns to plague me and I dip into sundry books, in which I can find nothing to hold my thoughts and turn away that dread of the future, that feeling of an ill which betides — that may be born of an indigestion, yet I think is the result of much illness, worry, and long strain. And I glance at gran'ther's portrait and remember that they tell me the old fellow was gathered to his fathers, contented and assured, so I look in his book and find the following paragraph:

"I have now well nigh spoken all my farewells on earth, and shall soon begin shaking hands with the loved one gone before. And though I know not where those greetings shall end, yet I do know where they will begin. I shall greet, first of all, my Father, whose hand has led me all the journey through, and my Savior, whose grace has been sufficient for me in every day of trial and suffering here. And next, I shall look around for her whose love and goodness have imposed on me a debt of gratitude to God I can never repay. When we meet, shall we not gather up the children and grandchildren, and sit down under the shadow of the throne and rest?"

"Heigho! There is that in this age of progress and invention to destroy one's peace of mind and ruin the best of dispositions. The conclusions of reason are rarely so comfortable as the assumptions of faith. Thru gran'ther with his parchment floors and wood ash suit and all, has one me."

"Be not righteous over much, neither make thyself over wise; why shouldst thou destroy thyself?"

Tell it to the editor

Write a letter to the editor and tell us what you think. All letters must be signed to be used in the Mercury. We reserve the right to edit, delete or not to publish a letter deemed not in good taste by our staff.

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Thursday, February 20, 1941

Ned Jennings, former Nicholas County basketball star, sank a field goal from the foul circle with 26 seconds to play and pulled the game out of the fire for the University of Kentucky in their crucial meeting with Vanderbilt Tuesday night.

Teddy Allen Poe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Teddy Poe of Sycamore Hill and a student at M.M.I., suffered a broken arm while playing last week.

State Trooper Ed Post and Trooper Delbert Pate, confiscated 118 half-pints and 20 pints of whiskey in a raid Wednesday at the home of Ed Silbert of Blue Licks.

Miss Sidney Davis Crouch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Crouch of Carlisle, has been named to the honor roll for the autumn quarter at Ohio State University.

William R. (Bill) Dollins, deputy sheriff for the past 3 1/2 years, has announced his intention to run for the office of Nicholas County Sheriff with Maurice Cameron as his deputy.

Fire gutted a two-story building known as the old Cap Fulton Barber Shop and damaged two other structures on West Main Street Friday. The fire was caused by a gas stove explosion according to Fire Chief Oliver Vee.

James Mitchell, a daughter, Kathleen Dale, Feb. 2 at the St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington. — To Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hopkins, a daughter, Pamela Ibell, Feb. 13 at the Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Vice a son, Tony Keith, Feb. 16 at the Nicholas County Hospital.

DEID — Robert Watkins, 50, of Paris, Nicholas County native, Wednesday at the Bourbon County Hospital. — Mrs. Howard Doyle, 56, of Paris, Nicholas County native, Thursday at her home. — Mrs. Josie Susan Buckler, 55, Friday at her home on the Myers Road. — Herman H. Turner, 76, Monday at the Nicholas County Hospital. — Turner Thomas, 76, of Lexington, former Carlisle resident, Wednesday at the Good Samaritan Hospital. — Mrs. Bernice Darnall Blair, 69, Carlisle native, Tuesday at Central Baptist Hospital. — Nicholas, 77, Tuesday at the Bourbon County Hospital. — Avery Hamm, 47, of Ohio, Feb. 20. — L.T. McCall, 74, at his home in Stanton. — Mrs. Lela Garrett, 75, Tuesday at the Brooks Nursing Home, Cynthia.

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...to wonder if I shall ever learn to live in my lifetime. I know that they do, for their putting off of the time when they shall begin to enjoy life, until one day they realize that old age has come and it is too late. Therefore, I think that the younger who may have their fortune to read this column: As you journey through life, for heaven's sake, do not be of living by the way.

Thursday, February 20, 1941

The county board of tax supervisors, composed of J.H. Collier, J.J. Wilson, Foster McLain, R.H. Crowe and C.C. Shroad is in session at the courthouse going over the tax books.

Joe D. Crawford, W.P.A. worker on the new armory on Main Street, suffered a badly sprained ankle Tuesday morning when he fell from a ladder. He was brought to the local hospital for x-ray.

A fire alarm at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at J.D. Patton's house on Sycamore, that was given by Frank Reynolds, was extinguished before the arrival of the fire department. Jimmy Harper, assisted by Skimney Gaunce, issued a much needed bucket of water from the blaze. The fire was believed to have started from sparks falling from the chimney.

County Clerk John F. Sugg says "Come and get em." Up until press time there had been issued only 700 of the 1700 automobile licenses for 1941. Mr. Sugg urges everyone to get their license now so that they can avoid the rush. There